



## Fachbereich Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften Nürnberg FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

### Erfahrungsbericht Auslandsstudium

Die Erfahrungsberichte werden von Studierenden verfasst und spiegeln nicht die Meinung der Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg wider. Jeder Bericht wird vor der Veröffentlichung\* geprüft. Die Universität behält sich das Recht zur Kürzung vor.

Angaben zum Auslandsaufenthalt	
Studiengang an der WiSo:	Int business studies
Gastuniversität:	University of Genoa
Gastland:	Italy
Studiengang an der Gastuniversität:	Economics
Aufenthaltszeitraum (Semester und Jahr):	Sep 2023 - January 2024
Darf der Bericht veröffentlicht werden?*	JA

\*Veröffentlichung unter: <http://ib.wiso.fau.de/outgo/partneruniversitaeten/>

Bei Fragen in Bezug auf den Datenschutz möchten wir Sie auf die Webseite des Datenschutzbeauftragten der FAU verweisen (<https://www.fau.de/fau/leitung-und-gremien/gremien-und-beauftragte/beauftragte/datenschutzbeauftragter/>) oder auf deren Email-Adresse ([datenschutzbeauftragter@fau.de](mailto:datenschutzbeauftragter@fau.de))

Schildern Sie Ihre persönlichen Erfahrungen und Eindrücke von Ihrem Auslandsaufenthalt. Bitte halten Sie sich dabei an eine Regel: Seien Sie fair!

- nur eigene Erfahrungen und Eindrücke beschreiben
- keine Unterstellungen, Spekulationen oder Gerüchte
- keine Verallgemeinerungen
- Kritik sachlich, konkret und konstruktiv formulieren
- keine Beleidigungen

Verwendung von Bildern: Falls Sie in Ihren Bericht Bilder einfügen wollen, verwenden Sie bitte ausschließlich Bilder, die Sie selbst fotografiert haben und auf denen keine Personen abgebildet sind. Aufgrund urheberrechtlicher Bestimmungen müssen wir Bilder, die diesen Vorgaben nicht entsprechen, aus dem Bericht entfernen.



*Folgende Angaben dienen zu Ihrer Orientierung, auf welche Themen Sie im Bericht eingehen können. Bitte füllen Sie sich weder verpflichtet, detailliert auf alle genannten Bereiche einzugehen, noch sich nur auf diese zu beschränken. Schreiben Sie über alles, was Ihnen wichtig erscheint und was Ihrer Meinung nach für Ihre Nachfolger nützlich sein könnte.*

### **Themenbereiche:**

1. Bewerbung und Auswahlverfahren an der FAU
2. Bewerbung / Anmeldung an der Gastuniversität
3. Vorbereitung auf das Auslandsstudium
4. Anreise / Visum
5. Unterkunftsmöglichkeiten (Wohnheim, privat)
6. Einschreibung an der Gastuniversität
7. Fachliche und administrative Betreuung an der Gastuniversität (International Office, Fachstudienberater, Buddy-Programme, studentische Initiativen, etc.)
8. Lehrveranstaltungen / Stundenplan an der Gastuniversität
9. Sprachkurse an der Gastuniversität (kostenlos, kostenpflichtig)
10. Ausstattung der Gastuniversität (Bibliothek, Computerräume, etc.)
11. Freizeitangebote
12. Stadt (Sehenswürdigkeiten, Feste, Museen, etc.)
13. Alltag (Geld-Abheben, Handy, Jobben)
14. Finanzielles (Lebenshaltungskosten, Stipendien)
15. Wichtige Ansprechpartner und Links
16. Fazit (beste und schlechteste Erfahrung)
17. Sonstiges

***Vielen Dank für Ihre Unterstützung!***



## Life in la Superba

As an International student in Germany, traveling is my main passion, when I learned that a requirement for the IBS program included a semester abroad I was super excited! The Erasmus program renowned for facilitating student exchanges across the EU, offered me an incredible opportunity. I am deeply grateful for the support I received, both academically and financially, during my enriching stay in Italy. I did my Erasmus semester in Genoa, the city is called "la Superba" due to its impressive landmarks and victories in the sea. This report aims to provide insight into the experience of studying abroad at UniGe Italy as an Erasmus student from FAU Germany.

### Application and Selection at FAU

Everything started with a big meeting at WiSo, all the prospective exchange students were provided with the essential and general information regarding the mobility program (deadlines, contacts, Requirements, partnerships). We were divided into two groups, Erasmus students and the students destined for universities outside the EU framework.

Once we had the knowledge we were required to fill up an online application with all relevant details and personal information along with our desired universities, I must confess Italy was my dream destination from the outset. Despite having five spaces to list desired universities, all of my choices were within the same country. UniGe (Università degli studi di Genova) was my first option and I was lucky enough to receive the email a few weeks later notifying me that I had been nominated by my home university FAU. I think the process was simple and easy, the international office as well as the Erasmus office were always willing to help, very responsive and supportive.

As I got accepted to carry out my Erasmus semester at UniGe, I had access to the mobility platform at FAU which was very helpful since I found the "workflow" tool very organized and beneficial, the platform was the main channel of documents exchange between me and the office.

### Application at UniGe

After I was accepted at the host university, I was contacted by their office and given all the essential information for the mobility (person in charge, links to website, platforms and subjects) at this point I only had to focus on the learning agreements, I had to find subjects that matched the contents of my IBS program at FAU.

### Preparation

Creating my own personal checklist proved to be invaluable, I highly recommend it. I divided it into two sections; one for FAU requirements and another for UniGe. Crossing off each item of these lists provided me with a clear visualization of the whole process and helped me be organized. The mobility platform was also very



helpful since all the documents are listed and it is fairly easy to download and upload documents and forms such as the grant agreement and green travel.

**Visa:** as a non-EU citizen, obtaining a visa to reside in Italy would typically be a prerequisite. However, since I hold a European residence permit I was able to bypass this process and was just required to register upon my arrival in Genoa.

**Health insurance:** fortunately, my German health insurance policy extended coverage to various European countries, including Italy. However, I am aware that not all insurance providers offer this level of international coverage, I strongly advise to contact your provider to confirm coverage and any associated conditions. Companies often offer option and alternative solutions to meet specific needs.

**Language:** I always had a fascination for languages and started learning Italian on my own a couple of years before my exchange semester therefore the language was not really a problem. Although UniGe provided English-language courses and did not mandate the presentation of a language certificate, I highly recommend acquainting oneself with basic Italian phrases to facilitate communication in the city, given that English proficiency is not widespread in Italy.

**Accommodation:** finding suitable housing proved to be quite a challenge, I explored various dormitory options and rental listings, but securing accommodation was more difficult than anticipated. While the host university provided links to housing resources, they offered little assistance with placement or recommendations for specific areas within the city. Complicating matters further, the university's faculties are dispersed across different parts of the city, so I recommend to look for something close to your department building to facilitate transportation. Aliseo is the company in charge of student dorms in the city and applying well in advance will increase your chances of getting a room, all the information is on their website. It is imperative to remain vigilant against potential housing scams, which unfortunately are not uncommon.

**Challenges:** the class schedule was delivered to me only after my arrival, this made it difficult to select housing in close proximity to my courses in advance. Additionally, I struggled a lot with the learning agreements, while I was able to identify equivalent subjects and gain approval from FAU, completing the necessary paperwork proved more complex. Typically, securing the three signatures- from the responsible individuals at both the host university and home universities, as well as from the student- is done through the mobility platform. However, UniGe's system was not compatible with this online signature process. As a solution, I had to manually complete a Word document and sign it to fulfill the requirements.

### **Arrival**

3 days before my arrival I was given notice that I had received a place in one of the dormitories offered by the Aliseo company, I was very relieved. I loved Genoa as soon as I stepped foot in the city but the first thing I noticed was the amount of hills! The dormitory where I lived is located 5 min walking from the "Genova piazza



Principe” train station however it is 5 minutes up a hill, therefore I advise to consider getting a taxi for half the way which is accessible by car. I did not know this so I walked up the hill with my suitcases and I have to say that it is no fun. The process to check in the room was very simple, the staff was always very friendly and willing to help, the dormitory name is “Garibaldi”. Garibaldi dormitory offers single and double rooms with private bathrooms and shared areas. In terms of registration to the city, I just had to send a copy of my passport, European residence permit and address to the respective office at UniGe (the email address was part of the information I was given when UniGe first contacted me)

### **Enrollment at UniGe**

Once I arrived I sent the confirmation of arrival to the person in charge and they provided me with a username and a password in order to access the student portal. The university also counts with an app (UniGe mobile app) where students can see the timetable, classrooms, professors contact information and even the gps location. I had an overlap in my first timetable, I had to email the professors to communicate this situation and find a solution, they were all very understanding and helped me out.

### **Courses**

As a business student, In Genoa I mainly took economic courses and absolutely loved them, given my aspiration to specialize in logistics and maritime trade, Genoa’s strategic location as one of the most important ports in the Mediterranean made it an ideal environment for my studies. Throughout my time there, all my courses were intricately linked to ships and logistics, with a strong emphasis on the managerial and economic principles. I found the coursework both enriching and enjoyable, we had field trips to maritime terminals and a cruise vessel. We had guest lectures and made presentations all in these sector. The exams are either written, oral or a combination of both, could include presentations or reports but professors are always available for guidance and support. Italian courses are offered however I did not take any since I could communicate in Italian.

### **Erasmus student network (ESN)**

The ESN organization, run by students for students, serves as the initial gateway to forming new friendships. Upon being contacted via email, ESN provided me with the link to the telegram group where all the information such as the ESN calendar and meetings are provided. The ESN card is amazing, it offers Erasmus students discounts in food around the city, memberships and my favorite flights!. To obtain the ESN card simply visit the Erasmus office at UniGe.

### **Living**

In terms of the daily living, my number one recommendation is to have good walking shoes. My favorite activity was to run around the old port, there is restaurants and stands around as well as stunning views. The faculty of economics is right next to the port therefore, the walks around the area are enjoyable. There is only one metro line, it is free to use and it takes you to all the main spots in the city such as Ferrari squared where all the main shopping stores are. The thing that I enjoyed the most about my time in Italy was all the traveling I was able to do, I visited multiple cities and towns such as Milan, Rome, Naples, Pisa, Parma and Venice.



### **Important link**

<https://www.studenti.unige.it/areaint/foreignstudents/erasmus/english/>

### **Conclusion**

My semester abroad in Genoa through the Erasmus program has been a transformative experience, rich with academic growth and cultural immersion. The city historical significance, coupled with its strategic location as a maritime hub, provided an ideal backdrop for my studies, particularly in economics and logistics. The support received from both FAU and UniGe was invaluable, facilitating a smooth transition and enabling me to fully embrace the opportunities.

### **Main recommendations**

- Create a checklist to stay organized throughout the application process.
- Start the search and application for accommodation early.
- Become familiar with basic Italian sentences.
- Always communicate to the different offices and professors regarding any challenge or academic concern.
- Engage with the Erasmus student Network for social integration and access to valuable resources and discounts, don't forget the ESN card!
- Embrace the opportunity to explore Genoa and surroundings.

Overall, my time in Italy was amazing ! and a fulfilling journey of academic, personal and cultural growth. I highly recommend future Erasmus students to seize every opportunity for exploration, engagement, and enrichment during their own study abroad experiences.